

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 775

USUN NEW YORK 1251

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, UN

SUBJECT: KOREAN THOUGHTS ON ALTERNATIVE UN STRATEGY

1. I HAD OPPORTUNITY FOR EXTENDED DISCUSSION OF KOREAN QUESTION IN THE UN WITH BOTH FOREIGN MINISTER AND VICE FOREIGN MINISTER DURING VISIT TO PUSAN THIS PAST WEEKEND. IN THE COURSE OF THIS DISCUSSION THEY RAISED THE DESIRABILITY OF AN ALTERNATIVE STRATEGY BASED ON THEIR CURRENT ASSESSMENT THAT VOTING WOULD BE CLOSE AND OUTCOME UNCERTAIN.

2. PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS IN THEIR THINKING ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. THEY WANT TO GET THE KOREAN QUESTION OUT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THEY FIND THE EFFORT AND COST OF RALLYING SUPPORT EACH YEAR NO LONGER JUSTIFIED BY THE BENEFITS RECEIVED AND GIVEN THE RISK FROM UNFRIENDLY RESOLUTIONS.

B. THEY ARE NOW PERSUADED THAT THE CONCEPT OF DUAL ADMISSION ON THE BASIS OF UNIVERSALITY HAS NOT RECEIVED SUFFICIENT GENERAL SUPPORT TO PROVIDE ASSURANCE OF SUCCESS FOR FRIENDLY RESOLUTION THIS YEAR.

C. THEY WOULD BE SATISFIED WITH SOME COMPROMISE THAT WOULD END THE DEBATE WITH A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE DISSOLUTION OF UNCURK AND REFERRING THE QUESTION

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OF THE OTHER ASPECTS OF THE UN PRESENCE TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

3. THE KOREANS SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS WE COULD WORK OUT WITH THE CHINESE A COMPROMISE ALONG THESE LINES. THEY FELT THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WOULD BE HAPPY TO BE RID OF THE KOREAN QUESTION AND THAT THE CHINESE MIGHT SEE IT AS A WAY OF REMOVING AN IRRITANT IN US/PRC RELATIONS. IF THIS IS FEASIBLE THEN WE MIGHT AVOID VOTES ON OPPOSING RESOLUTIONS AND GET A CONSENSUS ON THE COMPROMISE WHICH COULD BE PUT INTO EFFECT BY GENERAL AGREEMENT. I NOTED THAT NORTH KOREANS MIGHT NOT BE WILLING TO FOREGO THEIR DEMANDS AND THAT CHINESE AND RUSSIANS WERE BACKING THEM AT THE CURRENT UNGA.

4. AS AN ALTERNATIVE THE KOREANS SUGGESTED THAT QUESTION BE DEALT WITH BY AMENDMENTS TO THE ALGERIAN RESOLUTION WHEN IT COMES UP FOR CONSIDERATION. SUCH AMENDMENTS WOULD EMBODY AGREEMENT ON DISSOLUTION OF UNCURK AND REFERRAL OF OTHER ELEMENTS OF KOREAN QUESTION TO SECURITY COUNCIL.

5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S AND USUN'S VIEWS. EVIDENTLY ROKG BELIEVES ALTERNATIVES ARE WORTHY OF SERIOUS EXAMINATION WITH US AT THIS STAGE.

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